



May 1, 2006

# Coalition to Address Abuse in Later Life

Pikes Peak Region

Volume 1, Issue 1

## VISION:

**A community in which people in later life can live in safety, dignity, and respect.**

## MISSION:

**To reduce abuse and neglect of people in later life in the Pikes Peak region through improved community understanding, coordination, and response.**

## About the Coalition

In January of 2006 DVERT began meeting with national expert on elder abuse, Bonnie Brandl of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, to discuss ideas to address elder abuse in the Pikes Peak Region. These meetings were the first steps in the development of a plan of action to create a community response to abuse in later life. Contacts were made with agencies and organizations that work with and advocate for older persons in our community in order to plan next steps.

On August 4, 2005, Ms. Brandl facilitated a planning/training day for a diverse group of community stakeholders to discuss the issue and develop strategies. Based on the work of this group, a community wide training on the topic of elder abuse was presented by Ms. Brandl and work began to establish a multidisciplinary coalition to address the problem.

In October of 2005 the first monthly meeting of

the multidisciplinary Steering Committee for the Coalition to Address Abuse in Later Life was held and planning began. After defining a vision and mission this group determined that it was important to assess the older community's experience with abuse, services, and interventions before moving forward with efforts to improve services and fill gaps.

A multidisciplinary working committee was formed and began monthly meetings in January 2006. Along with the Steering Committee this group developed a survey of older persons along with a plan for distribution which began this month.

With information about the older community new goals will be established in an effort to improve services and interventions, to encourage coordinated response across agencies, and to fill gaps in service in our region.

## Inside this issue:

- Distribution of the Survey 2
- Contact Information 2

## Organizations represented

The following organizations are represented in the Coalition to Address Abuse in Later Life:

Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging; El Paso County Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services; Silver Key Senior Services; El Paso County Sheriff's Office; Colorado Springs Housing Authority; Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team; TESSA; Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital; Colorado Springs Police Department Senior Victim Assistance Team; Teller Senior Coalition; Office of the District Attorney, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; Centro de la Familia; Physicians Home Health Care

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### Distribution of the *Survey of Individuals Age 50 and Older*

Coalition members felt that a valid assessment of the older community would require that a wide variety of older individuals have the opportunity to provide information about their lives and experiences. The goal is to distribute the “Survey of Individuals Age 50 and Older” to both people who are healthy and active and people with medical conditions or disabilities that keep them from getting around, to people living at home and people who live

in facilities, to people who have little contact with services for older individuals and those who are currently accessing services. In order to obtain samples from all of these groups the survey will be distributed in a number of ways.

5000 surveys will be inserted into the June issue of *Life After 50* magazine and will be placed in grocery stores or similar locations around the community. Senior service organiza-

tions like Silver Key, Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging, the Colorado Housing Authority, TESSA, the Department of Human Services Adult Protection, Colorado Springs Police Department’s Senior Victim Assistance Team, and others will distribute the survey face to face or by making it available at their sites, and home health care service providers will deliver the survey to clients during regular visits.

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**For more information regarding The Coalition to Address Abuse in Later Life or to obtain a survey please contact:**

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